



School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

POLICE INTERVIEWING STUDENTS

Policy No. 5115

Effective: May 2008

Initial Adoption: May 2008

Preamble

It is recognized and appreciated that an excellent working relationship has been established between law enforcement officers, school staffs, and students in this school district.

It is further recognized, however, that there are times when serious problems arise, possibly of a criminal nature, where police are required to conduct formal investigations. Such investigations may lead to formal interrogations of students in school. In order that the rights and responsibilities of all persons concerned may be recognized, the Board should have policy and regulations pertaining to such matters.

Policy

If at all possible, police officers will interview students outside regular school hours. If that is not possible, it is imperative that the dignity and rights of the student be respected. Disruption to the school and to students is to be kept to a minimum.

The protocol for police officers interviewing students in schools will be in accordance with the regulations of the Policy. This protocol will be conveyed to the RCMP.

Regulations

1. Upon RCMP entry to the school or school grounds, and prior to interviewing students in the school, the principal/vice-principal in charge will immediately meet with the police officer.
2. In situations where no charges are contemplated and a minor student may have information that is required by the police, the parents/guardians will immediately be notified and asked to attend. If that is impossible, the principal or vice-principal will accompany him/her during the interview as an advocate for the student. If the student is an adult, it is the choice of the student whether the parents/guardians are notified or if the principal/vice-principal accompanies the student.
3. If a minor student is a suspect or charges may be laid as a result of an interview with the police, the parents/guardian will immediately be notified and asked to attend. The interview will not take place until the parents are present. However, if the parents are unable or unwilling to attend, the minor student will be accompanied by the principal or vice-principal who

shall act as an advocate for the student. If the student is an adult, it is the choice of the student whether the parents are notified or if the principal/vice-principal accompanies the student.

4. If the police must arrest a student, it is the expectation of the Board that the arrest will be conducted in the least obtrusive manner possible so as to avoid disruption to the school learning environment. The manner in which the arrest will be made remains the purview of the RCMP. If the parent or guardian is not present at the time, the principal or vice-principal must immediately inform the student's parent/guardian that an arrest has been made.